

CLAIM LISTING

1. (Currently Amended) ~~A Harvesting~~ harvesting apparatus for use when manually harvesting field-grown produce, ~~the harvesting apparatus having comprising~~ a support structure, a plurality of driven rotatable members by which the support structure can be moved, and a body support element supported by the support structure, the body support element including a linear runner fixedly connected to the support structure and a bed slidably connected to the linear runner, the body support element being able to support a picker, ~~as hereinbefore defined~~, and being horizontally movable longitudinally forwards and backwards over an extended range of movement in the order of at least 1 meter relative to the support structure so that, when the harvesting apparatus is moving in a ~~first~~ forward direction, the body support element can be moved forwards and backwards relative to the support structure moving in the ~~first~~ forward direction to temporarily increase or decrease the speed of movement of the body support element relative to the produce so that the picker can optimise their position relative to the produce while a higher constant forward speed of the apparatus can is maintained.

2. (Original) Harvesting apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein a plurality of the movable body support elements is provided.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) Harvesting apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the or each body

support element includes motorised means for slidably adjusting the position of the body support element relative to the support structure.

5. (Currently Amended) Harvesting apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the body support element is manually slidably movable.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) Harvesting apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the or each body support element is vertically adjustable relative to the support structure to suit an individual picker.

8. (Previously Presented) Harvesting apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the or each body support element is adjustable in a transverse direction.

9. (Previously Presented) Harvesting apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the or each body support element is adapted to enable the respective picker to lie prone thereon.

10. (Previously Presented) Harvesting apparatus as claimed in claim 1; further comprising a conveyor system and a collection area, the conveyor system transporting produce placed thereon by the picker to the collection area for packing.

11. (Original) Harvesting apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein the conveyor system includes an endless rigid track which is supported by the support structure and from which receiving members are

suspended.

12. (Previously Presented) Harvesting apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein the collection area is supported by the support structure.

13. (Currently Amended) Harvesting apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising means for optimising the speed of the driven rotatable members based on the position of the or each body support element relative to the support structure, the means for optimising the speed of the driven rotatable members including position sensors for determining the position of the bed on the linear runner communicatively connected to control circuitry for determining the optimum speed of the apparatus which allows the bed to remain close to a center of the linear runner.

14. (Original) Harvesting apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein the speed optimisation means includes one or more position sensors which monitor the position of the or each body support element.

15. (Previously Presented) Harvesting apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising one or more sensors through which the direction of movement of the harvesting apparatus can be automatically adjusted.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of manually hand-picking produce arranged in rows using harvesting apparatus as claimed in claim 1, the method comprising the steps of:

a) a picker positioning him, or her, -self on a body support element of the harvesting apparatus;

b) driving the harvesting apparatus along the rows of the produce at a constant or substantially constant speed; and

c) the picker manually hand-picking the produce as it approaches, and selectively moving the body support element bed along the linear runner to horizontally move, forwards and backwards, over the extended range to temporarily increase or decrease the speed of movement of the body support element and to optimise the position of the picker relative to the occurrence of the produce, so that an increase in the amount of produce picked and an increase in the speed of movement of the harvesting apparatus can be obtained.

17. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 16, further comprising a step (d), prior to step (a), of adjusting the relative vertical and/or transverse position (s) of the body support element to suit the picker.

18. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 16, further comprising a step (e), subsequent to step (c), of placing the picked produce on the conveyor system.

19. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 18, further comprising a step (f), subsequent to step (e), of a packer at the collection area removing the picked produce from the conveyor system and packing the picked produce.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)